

COUNTYWIDE TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM

UPDATE - October, 2001

User migration progresses

Over 2000 of the roughly initial 2950 total trunked mobile and portable radios have been programmed and are in the hands of users. Another 600-plus radios are in various stages of deployment, ranging from the talkgroup planning and programming processes to actual vehicular installations.

Current plans call for most radio users to be on the trunked system during 2001. Lake Area Communications System (LACS) communities may migrate in late 2001 or early 2002. The LACS Commission decided to convert its dispatch center to trunked operation in late October; therefore, the equipment for the conversion was not requested to be ordered until that time.

Signal enhancement project started

A project to improve system coverage in certain low areas of Elm Grove and eastern portions of City of Brookfield is in progress. The modifications, recommended by consultant Ralph Evans of Evans and Associates, consist of increased power and receive sensitivity, and changes to antennas at the Menomonee Falls tower site, which provides most of the signal to these areas.

As verified by both vendor and independent tests, the system coverage exceeds specifications on a countywide basis. However, the need to do fine tuning improvements has been noted in the downtown Elm Grove and Bishop's Woods areas.

The first phase of the project, consisting of planning and costing, as well as filing coordination and licensing documentation, is already completed. Physical modifications can commence as soon as final authorization is issued by the Federal Communications Commission, which is expected shortly.

The potential need for eventual coverage adjustments was recognized when the system was initially budgeted. Therefore, funding for these types of improvements have already been planned for and allocated in the trunked system capital project.

Redundant link to Lapham Peak site being implemented

Redundant control of the Lapham Peak tower site in the Town of Delafield is being established by installing a second backup leased line to that site which is routed via a different geographic route from the primary line. Each of the system's six tower sites are linked to the redundant central controllers by a leased T1 data line. Of the six sites, the Waukesha and Lapham Peak sites are considered "anchor" sites because countywide mobile coverage can be achieved in a worst-case scenario with only these two sites in operation. Switchover to the backup line is automatic and virtually instantaneous.

When complete, the redundancy initiative will ensure that there is no single systemwide leased-line point of failure, meaning that a single data-line failure would likely affect only one or two of the system's six tower sites.

Third round of radio user trainings planned

The third of four rounds of "train the trainer" sessions is planned for November, 6 and 7, 2001. The trainings are conducted by a professional instructor from Motorola, Inc., and are targeted at each department's designated trainer(s).

Custom "take home" training materials are provided to each trainer as part of the course. The primary goal of this round is to provide training to users who are in the process of being cut over to trunked operation, or who will be in the immediate future.

Users who have attended past trainings, but wish to refresh their knowledge, or have designated additional trainers, are also invited to attend; however, they will need to bring previously-received training materials. Users wishing a "refresher" should contact Chris Petterson at 262-548-7600.

*The Trunked Radio System Update newsletter is distributed by Waukesha County Radio Services,
2120 Davidson Road, Waukesha, WI 53186
(262) 548-7600 fax (262) 548-7855*
